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PRINCE
RUPERT
HIS
DECLARATION.



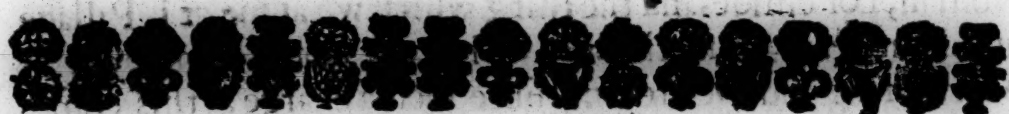
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By speciall Command.

DECLARATION.
HIS
RULERS
PRINCE



Printed by J. B. R. & Co. 1842.
By Special Command.



PRINCE RUPERT
HIS
DECLARATION.

I will seeme strange (no doubt) to see me in *Print*, my knowne disposition being so contrary to this Scribling Age; and sure I had not put my selfe upon a Declaration, if in common prudence I could have done otherwise.

I need not tell the World (for it is too well knowne) what malicious lying *Pamphlets* are Printed against me almost every Morning, whereby those busie Men strive to render me as odious as they would have me: against whom (doubtlesse) I had sooner declared, but that I well knew this mutinous lying spirit would be easily convinced, but never silenced; which, as it ceaseth at no time, so it spires no person. And this was too manifest to me, by those bold, odious, and impossible untruths, forged against His Sacred Majesty, their own King and Sovereigne (and my Gracious and Rovall Uncle) who is onely guilty of this, that he is too good to be their King; and to deale clearly, this was it furnished me with sufficient patience, thinking it but reasonable, that I should be flandered as well as *His Majesty*.

But since it hath pleased my Lord *Wharton* to tell the whole City of *London* openly at Guild-Hall, and since to tell it all the World in *Print*, that one great cause of their preservation at *Edge-Hill*, was the barbarousnesse and inhumanity of

Prince *Rupert* and his Troopers, that we spared neither Man, woman, nor childe; and the thing which we ayme at is Pillage and Plundering, and the way which we would come by it is Murthring and Destroying: since such a charge as this comes from such a Mouth, I hold my selfe bound in honour to speak and tell that Lord, that as much of his Speech as concernes me, is no truer than the rest of it, which for the most part is as false, as any thing that hath been spoken or Printed in *London* these two years: And had I known his Lordships intention, I would have asked his reason either before, or now at *Keynton*, if his Lordship had but stayd so long as to be asked the question.

But me thinke I heare the credulous People say, What was not the *Kings* Standard rescued from them by force? were there so many as 20 of our Men killed by all the *Kings* Canons? Was not our right Wing, long under the power of their Canons, so as some 17 shot of Canon shot against them, and yet not a Man of ours so much as hurt? Nay, were there not 3000 slaine of the *Kings* Army, and but 300 of ours? If these abominable untruths (with many more like them in his Lordships Speech) be all true, then shall he freely charge me with barbarousnesse and inhumanity: but if these be most grosse falsities (as many thousand worthy Gentlemen will take their Oathes they are) then I must professe I am sorry that any Baron of the English Nation should utter such fowl untruths, to deceive the poore abused Citizens of *London* with false reports, and so flandes us. 'Twas ever my opinion, That no valiant Man would speake a known untruth: nor can I blame his Lordship or any others faint-heartednesse in so bad a cause as theirs is, which doubtlesse is the Reason why such Noblemen and Gentry in *His Majesties* Army, who hitherto had spent all their dayes in Peace, could then fight so valiantly *ex Tempore*, not valuing their lives, and forgetting their dearest relations; so as our Enemies in their hackney rayling Pamphlets, were forced to say, *The Cavaliers* (to give the Devill his due) fought very valiantly. And indeed, had they not shewed

rather too much valour, our Enemies had lesse bottome where-
on to found any untruths, whereof I take this relation to be
one of their Master-pieces of Forgeries, for that they slew as
many of ours, as we did of theirs, is as true, as that they beat us
at *Sherbourne Castle*, and at *Worcester*.

Now for barbarousnesse and inhumanity to Women and
Children, wherewith his Lordship and those impudent unpun-
ished Papers cryed dayly in the streets do continually slander
us, I must here professe, that I take that Man to be no Souldier
or Gentleman, that will strike (much lesse kill) a Woman or
a Childe, if it be in his Power to do the contrary: And I open-
ly dare the most valiant and quick sighted of that lying Fa-
ction, to name the Time, the Person, or the House, where any
Childe or Woman lost so much as a haire from their head by
me, or any of our Souldiers. In a Battell, where two Armies
fight, many one hath unfortunately killed his dearest friend,
very often those whom willingly he would otherwise have
spared; and whether any Woman or Childe were killed in this
fight, is more then I can justly say, I am sorry if there were, I
speak not how wilfully barbarous their Souldiers were to the
Countesse *Rivers*, to the Lady *Lucas in Essex*, and likewise
to the like Persons of quality in *Kent*, and other Places.
Whom have we ever punished for speaking against us, as
they most Jewishly whipped to death a Citizen of *London*,
for saying no more then what was included in His Majesties
Proclamation. But since they name Plundering, whose mo-
nies? nay, whose Armes have we taken away, unlesse theirs,
who actually had, or at least declared they would use them
against His Majesties Army? And for that little Cloath bor-
rowed for our Souldiers (wherewith their Pamphlets make
such a noyse) His Majesty, by Gods help, will see it better payd
for, then any thing they have taken upon *Publike Faith*. What
House have we Ransacked, as they did the Earle of *Northamp-*
tons? mangling and cutting in pieces rich chaires, beds, stooles,
and hangings; drinking as much and as long as they were
able, then letting the rest run out upon the floore; when as the

very Earle of *Essex* his House at *Chartley* suffered not the least damage by us. What Churches have we defaced, as they did at *Canterbury*, *Oxford*, *Worcester*, and many other places? Whose pockers have we pickt ever to the value of three pence, under pretence of searching for Letters, as they lately did in *Glostershire*, and particularly this last Week at *Windsor* and *Oxbridge*? Is it not their usuall practice, first to Plunder a Mans House of all Plate and Monies, and then Imprison him as a Delinquent, for no other fault, but because he stood loyal to his Prince: as if it were too little to take a Mans Estate, unlesse also they rob him of his innocence? Have they not now stuffed all the Prisons in London with Earles, Lords, Bishops, Judges, and Knights, Masters of Colledges, Lawyers, and Gentlemen of all conditions and Counties? for what (God knows) they themselves know not: insomuch, as now they are enforced to find out new Prisons for the Knights, Aldermen, and substantiall Citizens of *London*, who are now thrust in thither, only because they are suspected to love their King? Have they not by Imprisonment or Threats muzzled the mowthes of the most grave and Learnedst Preachers of *London*? witnesse Doctor *Featly*, Doctor *Hayward*, Doctor *Holdsworth*, Master *Shute*, Master *Squire*, Master *Griffith*, and many others (for so I am informed these Men are) because they Preach that which their Conscience tells them is the known truth. And who are countenanced but ignorant and seditious Teacher, who (like the Masse Priests of old) call mightily on the Peop'le for their Plate and Money, for their Patrons and themselves? Who, besides their dayly Pop'rt Treasons, vent such other Divinity, as if *Luther* were living, he would binish to call them Protestants: And if this be not cruelty, injustice, and Tyranny, let God and Posterity Judge. Now for any loosenesse or incivility in our Souldiers more then what is incident and common to great Armie, I wish they would not mention it, lest some impartiall Readers, who know their course, understand it to be meant by some of their great Reformers, who are that way as notoriously guilty as

any : And for my selfe, I appeale to the Consciences of those Lords and Gentlemen, who are my dayly witnessles, and to those People wheresoever our Army hath been, what they know, or have obserued in my carriage, which might not become one of my quality, and the Son of a King. And whereas they slander us for *Popish Cavaliers*, I wish there were no more *Papists* in their Army then we have in ours ; but to me tis no wonder with what face they can slander us for Men disaffected to the Protestant Religion, when as their grand Reformers refuse to come to Church. For His Sacred Majesty I have been a frequent Witnessse here in *England* (and all the World knows he never shewed himself otherwise) and therefore hold it to be my part and duty to tell them, That His Majesty is the most faithfull and best defender of the Protestant Religion of any Christian Prince in *Europe*, and is so accounted by all the Princes in Christendome. And what a gracious supporter hath he been in particular to the Queen of *Bohemia* (my vertuous Royall Mother) and to the Prince Elector, my Royall Brother, no Man can be ignorant of : if therefore, in common gratitude, I doe the utmost in defence of His Majesty, and that cause whereof he hath hitherto been so great and happy a Patron; no ingenuous Man but must thinke it most reasonable : And for my selfe, the World knows how deeply I have smarted, and what perils I have undergone for the Protestant cause, what stately large promises were offered me would I consent ; and what a wretched close imprisonment was threatned, if I refused to change my Religion, when I was captive to the Emperour of *Germany*, enough to satisfie any Man of moderation : But if it be not sufficient, I would to God all Englishmen were at union amongst themselves ; then with what alacrity would I venture my life to serve this Kingdome against those cruell Popish Rebels in Ireland : for though I will never fight in any unrighteous quarrell, yet to defend the King, Religion, and the Laws of a Ringdome, against Subjects, who are up in Arms against their

Lord and Sovereigne, and such (all good wise Men know this and that of *Ireland* to be) though the pretence look severall wayes; such a cause my conscience tells mee is full of piety and justice: and if it please God to end my daies in it, I shall thinke my last breath spent with as much honour and religion, as if I were taken off my knees at my prayers. I thinke there is none that take me for a Coward; for sure I feare not the face of any man alive, yet I should repute it the greatest victory in the world to see His Majesty enter London in peace, without shedding one drop of bloud: where I dare say (God and His Majesty are witnesses I lye not) no Citizen should be p'lundered of one penny or farthing, whereby that ancient and famous City would manifestly perceive how desperately it hath been abused by most strange, false and bottom'esse untruths, for which some body (without repentance) must be a hamed at the day of Iudgement, if they escape a condigne legall punishment in this world: I therefore conclude with this open profession (and I am confident our whole Army will say *Amen* unto it) he that hath any designe against the Protestant Religion, the Lawes of England, or hopes to enrich himselfe by pillaging the City of London, let him be accursed: And so, whether Peace or War, the Lord prosper the Worke of their hands, who stand for God and King *Charles*.

R U P E R T.

